

By FRANCES SELOUS.



LOTTE CRAD-DOCK presents her compliments to Messrs. Crump

& Crushit. "Her ladyship incloses her photograph, as she is desirous of pointing out to Messrs. Crump and Crushit the fact that she possesses a remarkably fine figure and elegant appearance, being, in

fact, known as a 'fashionable beauty,' and would therefore at any time be a very good advertisement for any really stylish milliner or tailor. Owing to the extreme depression in the value of land which has naturally resulted in the diminution of the incomes of the nobility and aristocracy, Lady Charlotte Craddock proposes that Messrs. Crump & Crushit should make an arrangement to provide her ladyship with costumes for the rest of the season, her tadyship's recommendations in the very best society to be come a red in lies of other or pecuntary remuneration. Lady Charlotte Chaddock incloses half a dozen cards of invitation for one week, that Messes, Crump & Crushit may feel assured that all recommendations will be in the very best quarters. Perhaps Messrs. Crump & Crushit will be interested in knowing that Mme. Sidonie supplied her ladyship, on the same conditions, with a court dress for the first drawing room this senson, and that the dress was described in Fiction, The Spheres, and, in fact, in all the smartest journals, and that Sidonie received nearly a dozen orders for the next drawing room in consequence of the descriptions already mentioned of Lady Charlotte's appearance."

Mr. Crump-short, paily and very glossy with pomade and freest broadcloth, and regdendent with beaming face, natent tenther boots, diamond rings and ruby and diamond scart pic-touched an electric tell which summoned a clerk

"Send me the shorthand clerk," he

There was a knock at the door, and the shorthand writer entered.

"Sit down, Brown, and write as I dietate," said Crump, of Crump & Crushit, ladies' tailors, and outlitters to H. R. H. the Princess of Wales, etc., etc., New

"MADAM-Mr. Crump begs me respectfully to inform you that, as he has upon his books very many pretty and solvent ladies moving in the best society, who patronize his art and pay their bills, be can enter into no engagement to provide your lady-hip with costumes for the season. Nevertheless, if your ladvalue would like to call upon Mr. Crump at 11 a. m. on Monday next, which hour will be convenient to him, he will see if he thinks it would be of any service to the firm to come to any arrangement with your ladyship "I remain, madam.

"Yours respectfully,

"pro Chump & Crushit." Lady Charlotte Craddock was only 26 years of age, and had enjoyed the reputation of being a fashionable beauty for geven years. The fourth of Lord Eglinno chance of over tasting the joys of a serson in town while her three elder sisters remained still unusarried, and feel-Di sue would be passee and "quite too from minily elderly" before it could possibly be her turn to be presented, she made the most of her opportunies at afternoon the end of the shooting senson Col. Sir Attended Conditions and formally asked for her band and had been accented as con-m-day by Lord and Lady Eglinton, where a ratifate i themselves upon hav ing been able to establish a daughter so well without any of the expenses of pre-

Lady Charlotte Chaddock was presented upon her marriage, and tunnediately took a foremost place among thatseason's

sentation or season in London.

In the autumn her husband's regiment was ord red to Figured, an Indian station in the province of Oude. As a dutiful wife, Lady Chariotte accompanied her husband to India; but as she found life unendurable in the station, she soon formed the opinion that the heat was injurious to her health, and discovered that her constitution had already suffered severely from the trying effects of the climate, and that it was absolutely necessary for her to fly to the bills for the benefit of her health. There the purer air, heavily charged with the flirtation which ever flourishes in Indian hill stations, apparently had a very beneficial, though not lasting, effect upon her health, for it seemed to be necessary that Lady Charlotte Craddock should spend the greater portion of the year at Tucoori, or the Happy Vale, where her solitude was relieved by the society and attentions of Mr. Loftus Brackenbury, a young cavalry officer, who was able to enjoy invalid leave with sufficient bealth and spirits to inaugurate a flirtation with you an occasional dress or so, let us just the boile of the sintion, and to waltz at every informal dance, of which there are always many in hill stations, hastily armaged with a view to beguiling the husbands are away in the plains. At these little dances, it on became a matter of course for Mr. Brackenbury and Lady, thing, but your visiting her wouldn't elderly husband was so anobservant and seemed to care so little that it really served him right. So said Lady Chartotte in answer to the time and novel honored still, small voice, etc. Sir Algernon Craddock had but two

years more to serve in India, and at the inrlotte left the station in which his wife had spent so many decary days, and in whose adjacent station had occurred the one small shred of romance that could be said to have entered into her life. When she left India, Lady Charinte bewailed her separation from the one man she had ever loved. It had been delightful to her to arrange stolen interviews and preconcerted meetings that Crump held out, and she saw that there; mean fiving at Chatham or some other; and housekeeper's room. Prancing bays, remainders during these last few days of paragraph in one of the best papers only

should appear unexpected; and the excitement consequent on the acting necessituted by such enterprises gave to the attainment of her end a zest and an intoxication which she enjoyed to the ut-

Lady Charlotte Craddock tried to les en the hardship of separation by correspondence. A bomb launched by a mens of this correspondence informed Sir Algernon that his beautiful wife had deceived him. He promptly altorod his will and instituted proceedings for divorce; but he met his death in the hunting field before Sir James Hannen could hear the case that might have furnished the papers with so many sensational paragraphs and so much matter for witty comment; and might have afforded the middle and lower middle classes, through the medium of those papers, a short insight into the ways and manners of the upper classes, and regaled their curiosity with the repurity of diction which from time to time delight the curious commonalty. who read the reports of divorces in high

Before she was 25, Lady Charlotte Craddock, in a tulle head dress which set Nothing for nothing in business, you the fashion in widows' cans for some years, bewailed the loss of her husband and the property which he had left, with the exception of her very modest settlement, to the distant cousin who succeeded to his baronetcy

Unwilling to return to her father's suse and play second fiddle to her unmarried sisters. Lady Charlotte resolved to content herself with a very small stablishment in Mayfair. A tiny house squeezed into a corner near the park and elbowing a mews swallowed up over £200 a year, leaving a balance of £400, and credit, with which to maintain the small establishment, half brougham victoria, wondrous dresses and bonnets, tc., etc. Of course, this style of living must lead to debt and difficulty; but Lady Charlotte, whose portrait had been three times in the Grosvenor, and whose appearance was continually being comnented upon in society papers and fashion magazines, refled upon making a good second match before she should have plunged very deeply into debt.

But Fortune had not lately favored Lady Charlotte, insomuch as she had been a widow two years and no eligible match had offered, and she had found it hard to live in accordance with what he considered the necessities of her rank and position and keep her head above the growing current of debt. It was after contemplating many expediencies that she addressed her somewhat startng proposal to Messra, Crump & Crushit.

Insolent wretch! I wish that I could afford to order a dress and pay for it, timt I might let the creature know his proper place, and not allow him to make | was that she ordered her carriage for 4 an appointment to suit his own odious o'clock, and resolved to call upon a perconvenience." So thought Lady Charlotte, but, nevertheless, she wrote a dainty little note to express herself willthe hour he mentioned.

dock Mr. Crump had been careful to about town and likely to hear all the on left. dits in high life, had been instructed to find out what he could about her. His been exchanged, Lady Charlotte stated inquiries resulted in the unanimous ver- her case with slight modifications: "She dict "that there was no doubt about was very anxious to meet Miss Dollers, it she was A 1; had been on the new American beauty. Some one the prince's drag at Sandown last had told her that she was such a sweet autumn; had worn a thirty-five guinea creature, and Lady Charlotte felt quite to have been admired by H. P. H. dress from Redfern's for the occasion: drawn to her, and was determined to Lady Charlotte and the friends came badu't paid for it; didn't mean to. knowher. Could Edith help her?" Didn't seem to pay for anything, and yet

"Well, my dear, I'll try. I wonder if flattered him upon the elegance of the
seemed to live pretty comfortable—
his lordship is in London; he may know dinner and looked askance at Letitia French cook, etc. Was supposed to have her, or some of her friends." gone the pace in India, so was cut off Lady Cardington rang the bell. "Will they saw so little to admire, and whose with a shilling by her husband, who had been dead two years."

Armed with these facts, Mr. Crump with her circumstances that made her writhe, although tadies of her class who talk of "being in blue funks," and Harris." "cheeking servant maids" cannot be supsensibility or delicacy of feeling.

Mr. Crump callered his lovely guest an easy chair, and sat down in another himsalf with the air of being quite ready for a chat with an old and valued friend. dinner, and he confides in his butler and In one hand he held a popular social journal; in the other he held the packet as I am afraid I should find his confihad sent him.



Onite ready for a chat, "Well, now, with regard to making see how we stand. You are certainly a very good figure; everybody knows that, ahould make your waist three-quarters of an inch smaller; your shoulders require it. No doubt you would allow that. Now here is a card from Lady Dorkess. Certainly she's quite the

Charles to waltz together through a help our firm. I don't suppose she ever very large percent: of the programmet wore a dress that wouldn't be a disgrace and if during her stay in India love let- to a West End tradesman. Lady — and | Suez a letter in which she told him of ters and keepsakes crept mysteriously | Hon, Mrs. ---, h'm, h'm." Mr. Crump | the joy which she would experience in into Lady Charlotte's dressing case, her threw down the cards one after the seeing him again, in impassioned lanother. "All these are well enough in guage of which few would have believed their way, but they wouldn't help us. One of my men tells me that you were on the prince's drag at Sandown. Now that's what I call good business. Every body looks at you. That's a neat figure, and what a fit! Who makes her dresses? etc.; and then Mrs. Brown, of Clapham, and Mrs. Robinson, of Briston, cut off the nursery rice pueldings for a few delightful it is to wear pinafores and months, and pur their husbands on short have one's hair down one's back, and commons, and come and order dresses dine in the school-room long after that never look their worth on 'em, and one's fully grown up, just because one's flatter themselves that they look exactly two elder sisters 'hang on hand,' as

you read this puragraph?"

was a paragraph marked with a large cross in ink.

Lady Charlotte read: "The Prince of Wales honored the Bataille des Fleurs with his presence. H. R. H. looked very well, and apparently enjoyed extremely good health. He paid considerable at tention to Miss Dollers, the latest American beauty, who, it is rumored, will discharged maid in the shape of an take a place among the reigning belies anonymous letter inclosing a few speci- in English society during the coming season. I have it on very good authority that H. R. H. threw a bunch of gardenias -said to have been grown in the Sandringham hothouses—into Miss Dollers' victoria as it passed the royal equipage." "Do you know Miss Dollers, Lady Charlotte?

"No, she is not in my set." "Well, then, just you look here. get to know Miss Dollers, you bring her here and let her give me a good order and I'll dress you for the rest of the season-that's a bargain. I'll make you a dress for Ascot or for Hurlingham or for wherever you are likely to meet her, fined and elegant phraseology and the and then if you bring her here I'll dress you for the rest of the season. You shall be measured today, and directly you send me the card of invitation or the engagement, whatever it may be, the dress shall be put in hand directly. Now, are you agreeable to

Lady Charlotte would have liked to be haughty, but her doubtful position as party to such an arrangement disarmed all haughtiness on her side and she was fain to agree to the tailor's stipulations Mr. Crump, of Crump & Crushit, was day a conception in mushroom color very pleased to pay off, in part at least, on the person of Lady Charlotte Craddock the score of all former grudges in the shape of aristocratic rudeness that he owed to her class in general.

Lady Charlotte's resources were at a very low ebb; with the exception of the rent of her house and servants' wages, the contrived to live entirely upon possessed en outre her jointure, style of living she affected, was obtained by writing paragraphs for fashion magazines and borrowing. She felt very low spirited as she drove away from Messrs, Crump & Crushit's after her interview with the head of the firm. She had gained her end, but at what a price! She would have to unearth this American girl, who was probably vulgar, take her up for some little time at least, and then perhaps she would not be easy to drop. But, first of all, there might be some difficulty in the unearthing. Lady Charlotte ordered some tea and

luncheon tray to be taken to her boudoir, a much be-wadded and bedraped stained glass windowed cupboard. squeezed into a corner of the staircase. Here she sat down to meditate upon her situation. The result of her meditation son whom she denominated "her favorite pal." As a single, motherless girl, Lady Cardington had been Lady Charng to grant Mr. Crump an interview at lotte's bosom friend and confidante in India before she had achieved the great Before seeing Lady Charlotte Crad- match which had made her a peeress.

This friend was at home, and Lady obtain ample renseignements upon the Charlotte was shown into an equally besubject of her social position and reputa- wadded and be-draped though much tion. His head buyer, as a man much larger boudeir than the one she had just

After the usual feminine embraces had

you inquire if his lordship dines at home The footman, with well bred impertur-

was able to receive Lady Charlotte with | bability, answered that "his lordship had an easy affability and cool familiarity been at Newmarket since the day before yesterday, and was not to be expected until late next day, his lordship had told "Then you don't get on with his lord-

posed to possess a very great amount of ship very well, my dear, I am afraid," said Lady Charlotte, who really liked her dearest friend.

"Oh, yes, dear, I do. I always do my duty to him. I look pretty and order not in me, which is rather an advantage, f invitation cards which Lady Charlotte dences rather vapid, with a tendency to be decidedly more horsey than I should consider quite interesting. But now, what is to be done about this American? Do you belong to the, Primrose league?" "Oh, yes, I am a dame, harbinger, or a queen's councilor, or something or

other, with a brooch." "Very well then, Miss Dollers sure to be one too. All Americans and parvenus who want to get into society begin with the Primrose lengue. You write to her and say you want to confer with her upon the subject of election work. Find her address in the subscription lists and write to her."

"Thanks for the hint. I'll do that. Good-by. Thanks awfully. Are you dining alone?"

"No; Capt. Vanbrugh is coming to dinner, and I am going to take him with me to Lady Dorkess. By the by, do you know that Capt. Brackenbury is on his "No; is he?" asked Lady Charlotte,

with well feigned surprise, which might have deceived any one except a confidential female friend. "Evidently she has not forgotten him,"

thought Lady Cardington. Lady Charlotte had not forgotten Capt. Brackenbury. She had in her pos-

session a letter from him announcing his intention of leaving India, and giving the date on which a letter would reach him at Suez, and she had written to the fashionable beauty capable. "I wonder if he really knows how much I care for him," she thought.

"People think me shallow and only espuble of a flirtation pour passer le temps. because I married a man twice my age for the sake of getting out of the nur sery. I don't suppose they know how like Lady Charlotte Craddock. Have mamina used to say I wonder if I were to marry him, now that I am free Lady Charlotte took the paper that Mr. whether I should be happy. It would

horrid place, and contriving and manag ng; and being waited on by one's hus band's orderly-a curious sort of object, neither soldier, servant, nor good red by my husband's charger, when he could spare it. Je m'en doute. Poor Loftus! my debts, how happy we might be to-

Lady Charlotte acted upon her friend's advice, and wrote a gracious little note Miss Dollers, etc., and begged that Miss Dollers would be so kind as to call upon her to discuss the election work of the habitation to which they both belonged.

Miss Letitia Dollers swallowed the bait willingly, and not unconsciously. guess I am going to be the boom of the season, and Lady Charlotte likes to be in the front," she thought, as she dispatched

Lady Charlotte gushed very sweetly and with high bred gentleness; Letitia Dollers gushed with Yankee brusquerie, and they parted friends. When Lady Charlotte accepted her

annual invitation from Lord Addlepayte to spend Ascot week at Addlepayte Villa. near Ascot Heath, she asked if she might bring her young friend, Miss Dollers, a favor which was willingly granted, and Lady Charlotte was able to present herself to Mr. Crump armed with the nonorable and noble lord's letter. Mr. Crump undertook to send Lady Charlotte a couple of dresses: a chef d'œuvre for the first and third day and for the Cup which should make all other well dressed women green with envy.

Letitia Dollers was sufficiently delighted at the receipt of her invitation to be Bond street in her ladyship's dainty victoria, the maintenance of which was a marvel to the few who suspected the real credit. What little ready money she state of her exchequer. After a long and 'undred ou account before I close my solemn consultation with Mr. Crump, guiding star of the firm, Miss Dollers gave an order for costumes for the Ascot lotte felt quite sure of dresses on her own account for the rest of the season

Miss Dollers was residing at the Metropole hotel, and was very anxious to make Lady Charlotte known to a comparriot staying in the same hotel, Mr. Josiah Washington Potts, quondam pork exporter in the far west, now millionaire gentleman, doing Europe, and bent on the purchase of a country seat in England, old furniture, a pedigree, aristocratic wife, and, if possible, a baronet-Of the likelihood of his obtaining this last he was sometimes doubtful, of the others absolutely suro.

ground floor of the Metropole, at invitations to a few of her own friends, as Mr. Josiah Washington Potts was not richly dowered with acquaintance in very best society-"the corner lot," he must provide for the inexorable Now. called it. As this was a convenient manner of paying debts in the shape of din- gown and drove in a hansom to the ners owing to people whom she did not much care about, Lady Charlotte was best friends, not the creme de la creme but a few of those people who prostrated themselves at her feet in their endeavor to secure at their parties the presence of a fashionable beauty, who was known

and feasted at the American's expense, Dollers-that American thing in whom by which the obliging friend could be portraits they were sick of seeing in all the West End shops. All agreed in wondering why Lady Charlotte had taken up, and some even declared that they knew as a fact that Miss Dollers had paid her a large sum down to introduce her to his friends. wheels within wheels in the best so-Letitia Dollers was a great success at

rejoice over her arrangement with Mr. Crump. Her own mushroom colored gown was described in all the papers. Lured by the double magnet of Lady Charlotte Craddock and the more novel attraction of the beauty whom the knowing ones declared that H. R. H. had dis covered at Cannes, and thus created, and of whom the same knowing ones asserted that H. R. H. had avowed that he would rather have discovered her than the whole continent of America, the choicest sprigs of nobility and the great ones of the land hovered about Lord Addlepayte's drug. Young Lord Callow's team of blacks and exquisitely matched grooms passed unnoticed, and the reigning beauty of last year bit the despair at the sight of the fickle crowd



Feasted at the American's expense Before the last days of June Mr. Washington Potts had bought from its noble and impoverished owner the Tudot mansion and park known as Reminshall Abbey, Bucks. Here, in the early day of July, Mr. Potts intended to inaugurate his career as a lord of the soil. He had End upholsterer, who had renovated the furniture, and had fitted up the Tudor il that lay in his pewer to modernize and heartiffer the venterable stiffer. Amost speries by sale of shart until servants. of a butler, engaged by the boust agent. simply furnished forth the servants' half people in serving in their bills with negent one was to canvase the charity. A short

eight horses; and half a dozen carriages, newly designed, and built on the latest lines, and emblazoned with the crest of herring-and a one horse carriage drawn a griffin rampant, which Mr. Potts had recently discovered at the College of Heraidry that he was entitled to bear If only he were rich and could pay all for the sum of eighty guineas, filled the my debts, how happy we might be to couch houses. The Mayflower, a spick and span steam launch, was moored in a Thames, down to whose flowery banks to Miss Dollers, in which Lady Charlotte stretched the lands of Reminshall Abbey, Craddock presented her compliments to The griffin ramped on massive services of silver, glass, table linen and cutlery. Wherever a crest could be placed a grif fin appeared. From the chimneys and gutterspouts, over which griffins hovered, to the ground glass windows of the butler's pantry, on which griffins were engraved, the new made Washington Potts crest was obtrusively conspicue This lordly pleasure dome and all its

bought for himself, but before he could enjoy himself in it he required to see it filled with an elegant and well dressed mob. To obtain this end Josiah consulted Lady Charlotte Craddock, He went to call upon her one morning towards the end of June, and found her pale and exhausted. She had not vet recovered from an alarming interview with an irate jobmaster, who had supplied her with the pretty bays that drew her half brougham and victoria, and who now threatened summonses and county courts, and-most terrible of all -threatened to send a man to take away the bays then and there unless Lady Charlotte paid him the trifling sum of £400, due by her to him for horse hire Lady Charlotte promised to send a check on account by the end of the week, and rehearsed the gamut of equivvery amenable to all Lady Chariotte's ocations used by people who live on plans, and at her suggestion drove to credit, but Mr. Buck, of Buck & Jibb, jobmasters and horse dealers, Oxford street, W., was not so easily pacified. "You let me 'ave a check mn consultation with Mr. Crump, office at 5 o'clock this afternoon, and whose taste was said to be the line star of the firm. Miss Dollers don't, and I'll seld my man for them bays, and even if they are in the Row week on so lavish a scale that Lady Char- Fil 'ave the harness took off and leave the carriage there. When I says a thing I means it, and I mean that," and Mr. Buck had departed, leaving Lady Charlotte to face the full awfulness of the demand. A balance of £70 at her banker's and £200 to be paid before nightfall. It was horrid. For a few momenta Lady Charlotte gave herself up to despair, but at the end of half an hour she had formed a desperate resolution. At first she had almost entertained the idea of failing to pay and letting the horses be taken, but the recollections of Hurlingham, where she had an engagement that very afternoon, the A small banquet was inaugurated in Row, and the thousand and one occathe American's dining room on the cions when horses and a carriage are absolutely indispensable, made that imposwhich Lady Charlotte consented to be sible. No, Lady Charlotte would go to present, and also consented to send out a money lender. She knew they were disreputable, and knew that they would cheat her; but she must trust in providence or her own wits to save her from London and was anxious to get into the possible worry in the future, and she

Lady Charlotte put on her oldest tailor office of a member of the tribe of Levi. whose shining brass door plate anable to gather together a dozen or so nounced him to be a solicitor, but whose wealthy, well dressed people. Not her name and appearance suggested usury. After a great amount of discussion and explanation Mr. Abraham Levi stated that he had no ready money on hand and was himself, indeed, not a money lender, but would act in that capacity on behalf to invest. When Lady Charlotte left his dinner and looked askance at Letitia her house at 3 o'clock, the earliest hour communicated with, and his client had signed an agreement to pay monthly installments of £100, with interest added, until the debt should be paid off, the first payment to be made one month from the day of the signing of the agreement. The Hebraw solicitor, who only asked a moderate commission for his None guessed the truth. There are assistance, drew up an agreement so shrouded in technicalities that Lady Chariotte redd and signed it in utter unconsciousness of the fact that she was Ascot, and Lady Charlotte was fain to undertaking to pay 180 per cent, for the

accommodation. Lady Charlotte sent notes for £200 to Messrs. Buck & Jibb and reserved £190 for her personal use, trusting that she could ward off all large payments until the end of the season at least.

Wearied with the unusual business of the morning Lady Charlotte leaned back in a low saddlebag lounge sext and gently fanned herself as she greeted Mr. Josiah Washington Potts.

"I hear you have bought the Remins-

ball samte? "Yes, I guess I am boss of Reminshall want to be tashionable."

"Just so. But surely, my dear Mr. Potts, you have friends of your own? A man of your woulth must have made lots of friends" answered Lady Charlotte languidly, not taking the trouble to appear interested.

"Oh, of course I've made friends among speculators and that, but they aren't what I want to know. I want the Al a launch, and the couch that I have orbe illuminations, water purties, a ball, anything you like. You just give the

"Is is very finitecing of you to ask roe, out the abbey into the hands of a West of course, but you must allow me to consider the matter. I am feeling rather exwhatever it was possible to reporte in bausted now, so I regret that I cannot

Good-by, dear Mr. Potts." but a cerusin unactimity among her trades-

blacks and roans tilled the stabling for the season, together with the threatening

Reminshall "Anything would be better," she tered with their letters. I can't pay them and they must know that I can't! What do they want? They can't put boat house built on a backwater of the me in prison, I suppose, or half the nobility would be in prison. Directly I get my dividends I shall give these harples something on account. I am sure they can't expect me to do more. 1 would go to the continent, only one can't travel on credit. I suppose I had better oblige Mr. Potts." Lady Charlotte pronounced the honorable name of Potts as she might have swallowed a

So Lady Charlotte invited a large parappendages Mr. Washington Potts had her at Reminshall, first explaining the strange circumstances of a wealthy man, owner of a beautiful country sent and eager to fill his house with people, and yet not possessing friends enough to occuny half the spare bedrooms.

Lady Charlotte's set jeered at Mr. Washington Potts, spoke of the absurdity of the tiding, and with few exceptions accepted his invitations. There were rumors of a pasteral play to be performed in the open air, and as respect for the sait is an eastern fad and not a European fact the guests arrived bent upon amusing themselves and on being entertained, and determined to

ignore all obligation to their entertainer. Given the disposition to make merry and the wherewithal to do so, and the results are likely to be satisfactory, There were excursions by water organized with the greatest skill and precision by Mr. Potts. He was once overheard to say in disclaiming a compliment upon the subject that a man who had personally superintended the shipping of 10,-000 hogs ought to be equal to shipping a few dozen swells. There were garden parties and tennis parties, dances and charades, and all Mr. Washington Potts guests declared that Reminshall Abbey was a delightful place to stay at. But they were apt in quiet moments, when the master of the house was absent to gather into little groups and discuss his peculiarities. "The creature is so candidly vulgar,"

said one. "I wonder why Lady Charlotte touts for him; she seems quite to have taken him up. Ho isn't in her set, I know-ka fact, I don't think he is in any set at all, Do you think she means to marry him for

his money?

"I should hardly think so. They say he was a pork butcher in America. Then there was Lady Charlotte's affair in In-

dia, don't you know." "Do you think that means anything There always are affairs in India, don't you know, when young women go out with their husbands. So much scandal and backbiting and so little else to do. they are obliged to take refuge in flirta-And the conversation drifted tion. away from Lady Charlotte and her in-

Charlotte had undertaken the entire arrangement of the outdoor play, which possible for a play upon whose producunsatisfactory state of her own affairs made life wearisome, and the effort of joining in conversation and appearing of a friend who had some few hundreds or endeavoring to appear amused and drama. interested soon became intolerable. The Expectation was on tiptoe on the mertrembling through a skenless night. her creditors. Then Crump, whom she had looked upon as her slave from the moment she had introduced Miss Dollers, had discovered that the erewnile run-after beauty was a Yankee adventuress, a New York milliner's assistant who had paid for her passage and return passage with her savings, and had arrived in England with only a few pounds and the kudos resulting from distinguished admiration to support her. For a few months she had be own words, a big boom and had lived on credit. This credit exhausted, she left the shores of Britain to indulge on the other side of the pond in many a hearty laugh at the guileless Britishers who had blindly mistaken ber uncultured vulgar ity for American wit.

Mad with rage when his gigantic bill was returned to him from Miss Dollers' address at the Metropole, bearing the legend in red ink, "Left; address not known," the senior partner in Crump & Crushit wrote to Lady Charlotte Craddock to inform her ladyship that as he "Yes, I guess I am boss of Reminshall had lost considerably by her introduction of Miss Dollers ("as though I had wished it's all comfortable now. There's a tower at one end, supposed to date from Charlotte indignantly he felt that he had er at one end, supposed to date from Stephen; well, I've had an elevator titted there; electric light, electric indicators.

Charlotte indimantic the feit that he had a right to expect that her ladyship there; electric light, electric indicators. complete telephonic communication. In paying for the dresses that he had fact you wouldn't know the old hole then in preparation. He had charged as again; and now I want your ladyship little as possible and inclosed an account to come down and stay a few weeks, or | for the two dresses for the theatrical pergs long as you like, and to ask a party. formance, Ordinarily the price asked I've asked all the people that you brought would be righty guineas. He would to my dinner; but they won't half fill only charge seventy, and he expected a the place, and I want to have relays of check immediately. The costumes would company, one batch after another, as be sent by a special messenger, to whom one reads about your regular swells in Lady Charlotte might intrust the check, the society papers. They are a sort of as he would receive orders not to leave catechism for us self made men and the Abbey without payment. This letshow us the way we should go if we ter, in conjunction with her utter inability to comply with its demands, increased those sensations that made life and the preparations for the play a burden almost too great to bear. As of late years charity has proved a

very convenient social stepping stone, Lady Charlotte suggested to Mr ington Potts that charity should be made the raison d'etre of the performance. A ritualistic vicar of a neighboring parish brand, as we used to say in the west, and | was soon found and easily permade I know you can bring them. I've bought that the cause of Ricualism required that in his little tumble down and more grown church, with its ancient source towe lop sided and sinking sideways into the soil, the moldering home box pew word of command, and I'll see that it's should be replaced by open Gothic benches, that the damp and woolly toned harmonium should retire in favor of an American organ. In fact, that the whole of the interior of the parish church of Sleepston, which had begun life as a ask you to functions, but call again in a Homan Catholic chapel, which had been few days' time and I will let you know. | white-maked under Cromwell, and genevally uglified by succeeding generation Lady Charlotte did not at first intend of Low Church vicare, should now be to access to low A persons a request that beautified and transfermed into a semple of Pittaling.

There was to be no vulgar reclame, no

would make it known that there was to tones of some who declined to take any be an open air performance for the purfurther orders until they received a set-tlement in full, made her decide to go to that fauteuils would be three guineas, that a family ticket to admit three would be five guineas, that a special thought, "than staying here to be pes- train would leave Paddington, and that two or three dezen of the more distinguished spectators would be entertained at luncheon by the master of Reminshall Abbey.

Lady Charlotte had the disposal of the tickets, and within a few days of the announcement of the performance the greater number of seats had been taken. The charge was so high people who thought ten shillings and sixpence dear for a stall at the Lyceum, felt sure the performance, although amateur, must be really worth seeing, and people not in society rushed at the bait, and a very few in society and a few on the im ty of friends and acquaintance to meet mediate outskirts received complimentary tickets and were invited to the

A play of the Elizabethan era was unearthed and clothed in chaste modern garb by a penniless and aristocratio younger sen, who affected long hair, weird enements and a literary turn of mind, and made a little money and a great repute in his own family by contributing paragraphs to weekly papers, and who annually wrote a very weak and mystic novel, devoured by a class of readers with an appetite for anything written by an honorable, baronet, or lady

At the last rehearsals the play went smoothly, inasmuch as all the actors knew their parts. When the last rehearsal was over Lady Charlotte left the dramatis persons with a weary sigh She walked rapidly through the hall, and seeing all of the rooms occupied, fled to a small room of studious aspect, fitted up with a collection of such solid and classic literature as made Mr. Washington Potts shudder. This, of a more private nature than the rest of the aiting rooms, had been placed exclusively at Lady Charlotte's disposal as the most distinguished guests. Like all Yankees Mr. Potts rejoiced in a pair of pistels manufactured with all the latest improvements in deadliness. These were kept on his library table in a case, which in itself was a thing of beauty. Lady Charlotte sat down near the table, and drew the case towards her. She thought of her difficulties, of her endless struggles with insolvency and of the taste for luxury, which she felt to be her ruling passion, and for the things which only wealth can purchase, and without which she felt that for her life would always be unendurable, and she opened the inlaid case and took out one of the glittering weapons. "Perhaps, after all, this would be the most honorable finals; but I haven't the courage, I am too great a coward." Lady Charlotte put back the pistol and pushed the case away.

"No, I have not sufficient courage to do it." And then came the voice of the tempter, suggesting a temporary escape from her difficulties. The money for the charity; there it was in her jewel case The entertainment was in her patronage, and all the takings had been paid over

AtMr. Washington Potts' request Lady to her. There was £120 in notes and gold in her room; easy to appropriate this and tell the astute Mr. Potts that was to be as near perfection as it was the cost of the production had swamped the takings. In the triumph of success tion neither expense nor trouble, but he would be only too glad to give a only genius, was spared. Lady Char- check to the vicar, and would say no iotte found most irksome the task of ar- more about it. But then he might di ranging the al fresco perermance. The vine the truth, and he was so vulgar; it would be so dreadful to be under an obligation to a man who out-Yankeed even the conventional Yankee of comis

to invest. When Lady Charlotte left his effice Mr. Levi had undertaken to zend a morning's post had become a thing to be row. All the dramatis personse were dreaded and to be awaited in fear and people of more or less renown, demicelebrities, quasi literary men, pretty There was a sickening unanimity about wives of colebrated artists, etc., etc. And all were anxious to distinguish themselves before an audience that had paid so much for their seats that they meant to be critical.

Early in the morning Lady Charlotte's dresses arrived from Messrs, Crump & Crushit, and her maid came to inform ber that there was a gentleman from Messrs Crump's, who said that his or ders were that he was to see Lady Clistlotte before he left.

After a lengthy parley with the Bond street tailor's minion, who refused to leave the house unpuld, Lady Charlotte was fain to do that from the thought of which she had shrunk yesterday. She took £70 from the charity money and paid and dismissed the taller. Armee with the stamped receipt, she returned to the sunny sitting room adjoining her bed room. Through the window she could see the preparations in progress for the play. It was a sunny, cloudless day in July. All nature looked glad: presently Lady Charlotte must be looking glad and happy.

What fools we women of fashion are! Why can't I live on a few brandreds a year and be happy? But I can't, I can't. I should literally pine anywher except in a house in Mayfair during the senson. I don't set so smuch store us ladies do on dress, but I never ould is happy in a dress made by a second rate tailor. I despise myself for accepting hospitality from this vialgar American, but my own folly, my extravagance, has made it necessary. I wonder if there are any people coming to see this play who feel as wretched a de." Lady Charlotte went into her freesing room and looked searchingly at per reflection in the glass; she wondered if in unguarded moments she ever leoked as wretched as she felt. She smiled at the reflection and moved her lips in a polite murmur, "Yes, I can still look happy, though I can't feel it. And that oney I have taken to pay that wretch ed tailor! I suppose I must sell the fave remaining dismonds that I possess and refund it. Every one will know how miserably poor I am then. It will be dreadful to wear no rings except a wedding ring and a guard like a lodging house keeper."

In the midst of her reflections the smart and tight scaled young person who waited on her executed at the door. "I won't dress now, Howden, I shan't come down to breakfast," Endy Churiotte

said as the maid entered. "Bring me a cup of tea, and you can say I am study ing my part." She would certainly need all her energy to play her social part from hinchests to midnight, as well as the dramatic role

so Lady Charlotta had resolved to husband her powers. "I beg your purdon, your ladyship. but there's another young man de strirs says he must see you, and, if you

please, here is lets our The maid gave her a thin, beelly printed card, suggesting the Crystal police or